

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 12356

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, RP

SUBJECT: LABOR RESTRUCTURING: TRADE UNION CENTER IN OFFING

REF: MANILA 10699

SUMMARY: FINAL PLANS FOR FORMATION NATIONAL TRADE UNION CENTER UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION EXPECTED BE HAMMERED OUT IN EXPANDED RESTRUCTURING MEETING OF LABOR LEADERS OCT 17. TOP THREE SLOTS SLATED TO GO OT OCA (PTGW), MENDOZA (ALU), AND TAN (FFW). CREATION OF INDUSTRIAL UNIONS TO FOLLOW SHORTLY. PRESIDENT MARCOS TO BE FORMALLY ADVISED OF THIS MAJOR RESTRUCTURING STOP WHICH WILL NOW HOPEFULLY COINCIDE WITH NOVEMBER 1 IMPLEMENTATION DATE OF NEW LABOR CODE. END SUM.

1. WEEKLY RESTRUCTURING MEETINGS GROUPING TOP LABOR LEADERS HAVE BEEN CONTINUING SINCE REFTTEL, WITH DEPARTMENT OF LABOR PLAYING IMPORTANT ADVISORY ROLE. EMBASSY NOW INFORMED THAT EXPANDED MEETING OF LABOR LEADERS SCHEDULED OCTOBER 17 FOR PURPOSE PUTTING FINAL TOUCHES TO FORMATION OF NATIONAL TRADE UNION CENTER (NTUC) UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION. WORDING OF RESTRUCTURING MANIFESTO ALSO EXPECTED TO BE APPROVED AT THIS MEETING.

2. ACCORDING TO NUMBER OF RELIABLE SOURCES, TOP THREE OFFICERS WILL BE ROBERTO OCA (PTGWO), PRESIDENT; DEMOCRITO

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MENDOZA (ALU), EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT; AND JOHNNY TAN

(FFWLN VICE PRESIDENT FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. EIGHT OTHER VICE PRESIDENT POSTS WILL INCLUDE CECILIO SENO (ALU) AS VP FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS, CEZAR LEGAYADA (PALSA, FUR) VP FOR ADMINISTRATION, JERRY MONTEMAYOR (FFF) VP FOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, AND ROY PADILLA (NAMAWU MINERS AND MAVERICK PNTUC) VP FOR ORGANIZATION. TOGETHER WITH A RATHER SIZEABLE (SOME 22) BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ENOUGH OFFICES WILL BE CREATED TO ASSURE ALL MAJOR AND MANY MINOR UNIONS POSITIONS WITH THE NEW NTUC. IF ALL GOES WILL AT MEETING AND NTUC COMPOSITION AGREED UPON, PLAN IS FOR LABOR LEADERS TO JOIN LABOR SECRETARY BLAS OPLE FOR CALL ON PRESIDENT MARCOS IN ORDER FORMALLY TO ADVISE HIM OF THIS MAJOR RESTRUCTURING STEP.

3. COMMENT: AS MENDOZA HAS TOLD LABATT ON NUMEROUS OCCASONS, HE APPARENTLY WILLING MAKE CONCILIATORY GESTURE AND LET OCA HAVE TOP SLOT EVEN THOUGH ALU IS LARGEST AND STRONGEST TRADE UNION IN COUNTRY. UNDER CURRENT PLANS, FORMATION OF INDUSTRIAL UNIONS UNDER ONE INDUSTRY/ONE FEDERATION CONCEPT WOULD FOLLOW SHORTLY. WOULD NOW APPEAR FROM ABOVE THAT SECRETARY OPLE WILL HAVE SUCCEEDED IN HAVING BROAD OUTLINES OF LABOR UNIFICATION PROGRAM READY BY PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED TARGET DATE: NOVEMBER 1, IMPLEMENTATION DATE OF LABOR CODE.
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